

# REFUGEE

Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal

## resettlement

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June 2002

### FOR THE 'FORGOTTEN' REFUGEES

## MOSAIC ELDER REFUGEE CENTER OPEN

**T**he elderly are the forgotten refugees, according to Lejla Bogdanovic, the refugee program coordinator for the Maricopa Elder Refugee Program. That's why there was such a tremendous need for the newly opened Mosaic Elder Refugee Center.

"The elderly arrive in this country, and they are very isolated," Bogdanovic said. "Unlike the kids who go to school, or the adults who get jobs, the elderly typically stay at home and have very few opportunities to learn English. Many times, they have neglected their health, and they are unaware of the programs that are available to them."

Through an Office of Refugee Resettlement grant, the Area Agency on Aging was able to fund the creation of the Mosaic Elder Refugee Center, located on the third floor of the building where the agency has its offices.

In a warm, intimate atmosphere, complete with table cloths and fresh-cut roses, refugees 60 years and older receive many services at the facility. The room is set up with tables, chairs, a computer, a television and a foodservice counter. At each table, there are decks of playing cards, chess sets and dominoes. The television is used to lead a chair exercise routine. The computer is used to write letters to loved ones and to learn new skills. The facility caters a lunch for the elder refugees.

The four coordinators for the center try also to get guest speakers and entertainers to come to the center. Additionally, Bogdanovic and Sophia Moroz, the site's coordinator and Russian case manager, try to

schedule educational field trips, such as visits to museums and to the state capitol, for their clients.

Every Tuesday and Friday, the staff of the facility contacts 40 of their elderly clients and invites them to join in the activities. The center coordinates the transportation, provided by the Area Agency on Aging, and the elder refugees all get together and share stories, play games and eat a light lunch. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 8 was the first Friday the center was open. That day, Bosnian and Russian refugees were invited. Nora Lee performed songs of her own creation and other favorites on a guitar, and Mira Rumyantseva,

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*ENJOYING THE COMPANY – Approximately 45 elderly refugees enjoyed the opening-day ceremonies at the Mosaic Elder Refugee Center. On this day, Bosnian and Russian refugees were invited for a light lunch, entertainment and viewing of the art work by fellow refugee Mira Rumyantseva. Sophia Moroz, the center's coordinator, welcomes the elder refugees in English and Russian.*

# A LETTER FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR

*Dear Friends and Colleagues:*

**W**ith the June issue of *Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal*, we complete our second year of publication. Thanks to all of you who continue to read and contribute to this publication. Your contributions of ideas and stories help make this journal a valuable informational tool and sharing forum!

The big news around the Department of Economic Security recently has been the appointment of our new state coordinator for the Refugee Resettlement Program, Charles Shipman. He will be responsible for moving the program forward in a time of great changes and slow recovery. For more of an introduction to Charles, please read the article on his experiences and qualifications.

In addition to this introductory article, the June issue of *Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal* also introduces the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Program. This program has grown to be a model for similar programs across the country.

Also, we introduce the Mosaic Elder Refugee Center, a new service in Phoenix where elderly refugees can come together for learning, exercising and just getting to know one another.

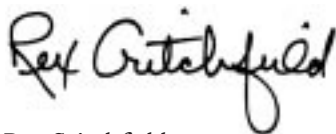
The YWCA recently printed an article about efforts to help Americans understand Sikhs. We have reprinted it here for your information.

Also included in this edition are three State Letters issued recently by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

I have enjoyed my time as "editor" of this publication, but it is time to pass these duties onto Charles. Thank you all for your support during this transition time — both in our country and in this department.

As always, your comments and suggestions are encouraged and appreciated, but now they should be directed to Charles.

Sincerely,



Rex Critchfield  
Program Administrator  
Community Services Administration  
Division of Aging & Community Services



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## AFGHAN WOMEN SEND MESSAGES

*From the International Rescue Committee's Web site.*

As the New Year began, two Afghan women who serve on the staff of the International Rescue Committee in Pakistan sent messages to the world about their hopes for the future of their homeland. Both women work for the IRC's Female Education Program for Afghan refugees – and accordingly are contributing to the effort to ensure that young Afghan women are equipped with the knowledge and skills that will help them rebuild their homeland.

### **RAZIA STANIKZAI, FIELD MANAGER, FEMALE EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

*The lullabies for our children have been mingled with the sounds of rockets and bombs ...*

My message to the world is that Afghans have many wounds to heal. They need each other and need the understanding and help of the entire world to heal. Please assist us in patching up the rifts in our nation, by stopping backing up the factions involved in war. No more bombing and bloodshed. We have bled a lot. The war has sapped our strengths over the decades. Now we are making the very steps towards peace with your help. We need each other to build internal strength and that would not succeed if we are not supported externally. The lullabies for our children have been mingled with sounds of rockets and bombs for decades. Let them experience peace. Please let us heal and understand each other after decades of chaos. Our children do not know how it is to live in peace. There is so much strength behind our hopes. Peace in Afghanistan contributes to the peace in the world.

### **WAHIDA FURMULI, PROGRAM ASSISTANT, FEMALE EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

*I want to see the girls and boys going to schools and women and men to have jobs and respect ...*

I want this next year to be a year of joy and hope for Afghan women and children. I want to see the girls and boys going to schools and women and men to have jobs and respect. I want to work for my country and want the world to recognize my contribution as a woman to my country's cause. I want the world to continue supporting Afghanistan. I want the neighboring countries to stop interfering in Afghan affairs and stop stoking the fire of conflict and war in my country. ■

## PUBLIC LEARNS ABOUT SIKH RELIGION

**Editor's Note:** This article appeared in *YWCA News*: FYI Vol. XXI, No. 4.

On Saturday Sept. 15, Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh, was shot in Mesa, Ariz. while planting flowers in front of his shop. In the tradition of the Sikhs, he wore a turban and beard. He was killed simply because of the way he looked.

In keeping with the YWCA's mission to eliminate racism, we held a workshop on Oct. 18 to educate our staff, and women from The Thunderbirds Haven House on the Sikh religion and culture presented. Guest speakers Pinki (Amrit) Kaur Ahuja, a previous YWCA staff member, Renu Singh and Raj Chotalla hope to prevent more Sikhs from becoming victims of racially motivated crimes.

Those present learned that Sikhs are called such, because they follow the Sikh faith. Sikhism, now the fifth-largest religion, was founded in India more than 500 years ago. Its scriptures and beliefs are distinct and unique from the two other major religions in India: Hinduism and Islam.

Sikhism's basic principles include:

- Belief in one God.
- All religious paths are good and lead to God.
- All men and women are equal in the eyes of God.
- Truth, justice and fairness are principles to live by.
- Everyone is encouraged to protect the innocent.
- The three tenets for daily life are: rise early in the morning and praise God, work hard to earn a living and share what you have with others.

The religion requires believers to wear turbans that cover their uncut hair and to grow long beards. In the United States, it is mostly Sikhs that wear turbans and have beards.

Around the world, Sikhs number about 22 million; 500,000 live in the United States. The Phoenix area has more than 600 Sikh families. Sikhs in the United States are householders with an active family life. Many have migrated to the United States, brought their families and have become U.S. citizens. Their children are born and grow up here. Their careers are diverse – from business owners to teachers, doctors, scientists, engineers, accountants, lawyers and other professions.

Sikhs throughout their history have defended the freedom of people of many other faiths. At this time of national grieving, Sikhs grieve also. And, just as Sikhs have stood and fought with the forces of democracy in the great wars of the 20th century, so they stand ready to defend democracy again. ■

STATE LETTER

## CHANGES IN 'INDEFINITE DETAINEES' POLICY

FROM: Nguyen Van Hanh, Ph.D., ORR Director  
 SUBJECT: Release of Individuals Previously Held in  
 "Indefinite Detention":

**BACKGROUND**

On June 28, 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *Zadvydas vs. Davis*<sup>1</sup>. The case concerned "indefinite detainees" or "lifers," which are terms used to refer to noncitizens who, after having served time for a criminal conviction and being given a final order of removal by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), remain indefinitely in detention in the United States, because their home countries and other countries will not accept them. In *Zadvydas*, the Supreme Court held that the law limits an "alien's detention to a period reasonably necessary to bring about that alien's removal from the United States and does not permit indefinite detention." Shortly after the Supreme Court decision, Attorney General John Ashcroft ordered the INS to begin looking into the release of

certain indefinite detainees. Some of these individuals already have been released from detention.

**EFFECT ON AGENCIES PROVIDING ORR-FUNDED BENEFITS**

In a number of cases, aliens with final orders of removal originally came to the United States as refugees or had another status that made them eligible for ORR-funded benefits and services<sup>2</sup>. These individuals, upon release from detention, may come to benefit-granting agencies for assistance. Prior to providing benefits or services, agencies must determine status, identity, the date an individual initially became eligible for benefits (i.e., entry date) and, in certain cases, nationality. ORR anticipates that benefit-granting agencies will encounter problems in making these determinations for recently released detainees. First, while they have been convicted of a crime that triggers a final order of removal, some of these individuals may remain eligible for ORR-funded

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## CHANGE IN VERIFICATION PROCESS

FROM: Nguyen Van Hanh, Ph.D., Director, Office of  
 Refugee Resettlement  
 SUBJECT: Verification of Refugee Status with the  
 Department of State Refugee Data Center

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has entered into an agreement with the Department of State (DOS) for verification of a refugee's status with the DOS Refugee Data Center (RDC). The DOS/RDC is to be used by SSA for refugees applying for a Social Security number when SSA cannot verify refugee status by an online Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) query.

Refugees often apply for Social Security numbers within days of arriving in the United States and before data is available through SAVE. On Jan. 29, SSA released instructions to its field office employees on how to verify refugee status using the DOS Refugee Data Center. The new instructions state that if the online SAVE query does not confirm refugee status, SSA now requires verification with the RDC of the status of any individual presenting an I-94 Arrival/Departure Card indicating the person was admitted as a refugee.

For more information on the new SSA instructions using the DOS/RDC to verify refugee status for refugees applying for a Social Security number, please refer to SSA instructions.

**BACKGROUND**

Since RDC data accurately reflects refugee information, including the information that INS admitted the person as a refugee, SSA now requires verification of refugee status by DOS when verification is not available online from INS via SAVE. The RDC database also includes some biographical information, as well as other data about refugees, that may help to confirm an applicant's identity.

SSA and DOS have established a procedure for FOs to fax verification requests directly to the RDC. RDC staff will respond to SSA requests within one business day by faxing back printouts of the information contained in RDC records. The RDC staff will also respond to telephone requests in emergency situations.

**INTERPRETING RDC RESPONSES**

RDC will respond by completing the lower portion of your request form and faxing it back to you. It will also fax printouts of the screens of information contained in RDC records.

If there is no information on the applicant in the RDC database, RDC will indicate this in its response to you. When RDC has no information on the person, enter the applicant's SS-5 as "S" for suspect and request INS to verify refugee status using a G-845, Document Verification Request.

*continued on page 6*



TVPA**EXPIRATION DATES GONE ON LETTERS**

from: Nguyen Van Hanh, Ph.D., Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement

SUBJECT: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 — Removal of Expiration Dates from Certification Letters for Adults and Eligibility Letters for Children

**T**his State Letter modifies information in State Letter No. 01-13, which provided initial guidance on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). The TVPA makes adult victims of a severe form of trafficking who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) eligible for certain benefits and services to the same extent as refugees.<sup>1</sup> Victims of a severe form of trafficking who are under 18 years of age are also eligible for certain benefits to the same extent as refugees, but do not need to be certified. As discussed in State Letter No. 01-13, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) makes certification determinations and issues certification letters for adults who meet the certification requirements. In addition, ORR issues similar eligibility letters for children who have been found to be victims of a severe form of trafficking. The initial certification letters for adults and eligibility letters for children contained eight-month expiration dates. However, as of Nov. 6, 2001, certification letters for adults and eligibility letters for children no longer contain expiration dates.

**CERTIFICATION LETTERS**

An individual who is certified<sup>2</sup> on or after Nov. 6, 2001 will receive a certification letter without an expiration date. Individuals who were certified before Nov. 6, 2001 received certification letters with eight-month expiration dates. As these letters begin to expire, ORR will issue recertification letters without expiration dates. The recertification letters will contain a lowercase "r" beside the HHS tracking number.

**BENEFITS**

Although certain victims of a severe form of trafficking will be receiving recertification letters, their "entry date"<sup>3</sup> for refugee benefits purposes will not change. Their recertification letters will contain the same certification date (i.e., "entry date") as the original certification letter. In other words, the recertification letter does not grant victims of a severe form of trafficking an additional eligibility period for any benefits and services. It is simply a reissuance of

the original letter without an expiration date confirming that the individual continues to meet the certification requirements. Standard eligibility and/or redetermination periods under the various benefit programs will continue to apply to these individuals in the same manner as they apply to refugees. If an individual presents an expired certification letter when applying for benefits or an agency attempts to do a benefits program redetermination and finds that a certification letter has expired, call the ORR trafficking verification line at (202) 401-5510 for assistance.

**RECERTIFICATION PROCESS**

ORR anticipates that the reissuance of expiring certification letters will run smoothly. However, ORR is aware that some victims of a severe form of trafficking may have moved since they received their first certification letter. To aid ORR in the recertification process, benefit-granting agencies are encouraged to call the ORR trafficking verification line at (202) 401-5510, if they are aware of any address changes for victims of a severe form of trafficking.

**STATE LETTER NO. 01-13**

Please refer to State Letter No. 01-13 for background information on the trafficking of human beings into the United States, the requirements for certification, the documents that victims of a severe form of trafficking will present and the procedures agencies should follow in confirming eligibility for benefits. With the exception of the removal of expiration dates from the

certification letters, all of the other information in State Letter No. 01-13 remains accurate. For a copy of State Letter No. 01-13, access the ORR Web site at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr).

## Notes:

1 "[A]n alien who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons shall be eligible for benefits and services under any Federal or State program or activity funded or administered by any [Federal agency] to the same extent as an alien who is admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act." TVPA §107(b)(1)(A)

2 Although children do not need to be certified, "certify" will refer to both adults and children for ease of reading throughout the rest of this State Letter. In relation to children, "certify" in this State Letter will mean that the child was found to be a victim of a severe form of trafficking and received an eligibility letter from ORR.

3 "Entry date" is the first day of the individual's eligibility period for refugee benefits. ■

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# REFUGEES MEET TO DISCUSS POLICIES

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in *The Patriot-News*, Feb. 25, 2002.

by Diana Fishlock

**W**hen Hamiat Mulira's husband beat her, she ran away – many times. Finally, she fled Uganda for the United States, only to be jailed for trying to enter the country with her sister's passport, she said.

"We came here for help," Mulira said. "I didn't know what was going to happen to me. They put me in jail with criminals."

Mulira, who was granted asylum and has been out of jail for three months, was among the immigrants, immigration attorneys and advocates who gathered [recently] at Temple University Harrisburg for a conference on what can be done to welcome and protect refugees.

Representatives from area state and national refugee programs and a coordinator from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees spoke about U.S. policy toward refugees, immigration bills pending and area efforts to aid refugees.

"Sept. 11 changed everything," Rep. George W. Gekas, R-Pa., said in his keynote address. While immigration is an important issue, "our security as a nation comes first."

The country is more wary now, even of refugees fleeing war and persecution in their countries, Gekas said.

"We ought not to confuse refugees with terrorists," said John Fredriksson, coordinator of External Affairs for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Metty Vithayathil, of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center, said many immigrants who land in New York or Philadelphia end up being housed in York County Prison, where more Immigration and Naturalization Service detainees are sent than anywhere else in the country.

The INS pays county jails to house detainees, Vithayathil said.

About a third of children sent alone to the United States are held in juvenile detention centers, said Merritt Sue Becker, a policy advocate with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in Washington.

Becker said the juveniles are sometimes shackled and strictly disciplined, and they get little time with anyone who speaks their language.

She and several other speakers urged those in attendance to contact their senators in support of the

Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act, which would help such children stay in foster care or shelters, instead of detention centers, and ensure them volunteer lawyers.

Mulira, the woman who fled Uganda, was sent to York County Prison for two months.

Now she lives at the Golden Vision Foundation International Friendship House in York, where people have helped her immensely, she said.

Mulira said she thinks she will stay in York. "It's a quiet place," she said. "I like it. The people help."

After [the recent] workshops, immigrants played music, danced and shared food from their native countries as a gesture of thanks for being welcomed to Pennsylvania. ■

## VERIFICATION PROCESS

*continued from page 4*

In addition, if the RDC has received verification requests from the same applicant from other SSA offices, it will include in the response to you the names of those other SSA offices and the dates the offices submitted the requests. (RDC has offered to provide this additional information to alert you to individuals who may be "shopping around" to obtain SSNs.)

RDC records contain more information than you would ordinarily need to verify a refugee's status. However, the additional information may assist you when interviewing an applicant to verify the person's identity or detect possible identity fraud situations. Information, such as the date of the refugee's flight to the United States or the refugee's ultimate destination in the United States, may be information that often only the refugee would know.

### ADDITIONAL RDC ASSISTANCE

RDC has also offered to provide emergency assistance to SSA offices by phone. Therefore, if you need an immediate response, you may contact RDC at (212) 777-5400, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., Eastern Time. SSA callers will still need to fax a request form so that RDC can confirm the call is from SSA.

The following RDC staff members will be able to provide assistance:

Kathy Baisdan, Sharon Bunch, Anna Cecot, Livia Farkas, Ham Duong, Jean Goldsbury, Joan Hall, Deloris Mitchell, Beatrice Williams and Linh Chen.

Direct all program-related and technical questions to your RO support staff or PC OA staff. RO support staff, or PC OA staff may refer questions or problems to their Central Office contacts.

Instructions affected: RM 00203.460, RM 00203.720 and RM 00203.740. ■

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SEPT. 11 FALL-OUT

## SOME ARABS TO CHANGE NAMES

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in *The Baltimore Sun* March 24.

by Wayne Parry

Associated Press

March 24, 2002

**T**ariq Hasan will henceforth be known as Terry Hasan.

The 35-year-old Pakistani-born financial worker is among a small but growing number of people across the nation going to court to change their names to less Arabic-sounding ones since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Many cite incidents of bias and harassment or fear they could be targeted because the attacks were carried out by Muslim extremists.

#### 'ONE OF THEM'

"I notice a change in people's demeanor when I tell them my name is Tariq," said Hasan, who lives in Hoboken, directly across the Hudson River from where the World Trade Center once stood. "They may be thinking, 'Oh, you're one of them.' Who knows what could happen to me?"

A San Diego man who is serving in the Navy went to the courthouse two days after the Sept. 11 attacks to

change his name from Mohamad to Michael. On the form where he was asked to state the reason for the change, he scrawled, "Stereotype, discrimination and prejudice against my name."

In Mira Mesa, Calif., a man once named Bedir is now named Mark. "I do not want an Arabic-sounding name anymore," he wrote on his application.

In Secaucus, N.J., Isam Abu Zaid is changing his name to Sam Paul St. Germain. He said he wants to take the name of the woman who adopted him years ago, but also "to avoid the discrimination that his name gives him."

"It's happening all over," said Ra'id Faraj, a spokesman for the Council on Islamic-American Relations of Southern California. "The issue we all need to think of is why would someone feel they had no choice but to do this?"

#### WRONG MESSAGE?

Some Arab-American groups claim that adopting a new name sends exactly the wrong message after Sept. 11: that all Arabs are associated with terrorism, or somehow have something to hide or be ashamed of.

"This is really a shame," said Hani Awadallah, president of the Arab-American Civic Organization in

*continued on page 10*

## IRAQI ASSOCIATION CHANGES NAME

February 27, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Arizona Refugee Community Center (ARCC)

**T**he Iraqi Association in Arizona Center is changing its name. We have come to this decision for a few reasons we wanted to share with you.

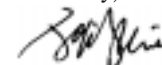
The IAA opened its doors in October 2000 with a project to help the Iraqi Refugees in Phoenix. We targeted the homebound women and youth, and we became very successful. Our center has developed a great program with ESL and computer classes, youth group and elderly programs. We were assisting the Iraqi refugees, but at the same time, we didn't close our doors to other ethnic refugees who asked for help. We did not want to turn away the other refugees, because we have the capabilities to assist more. We have reached the point that there are more Vietnamese, Afghani and Bosnian refugees than Iraqi refugees in our classrooms.

After Sept. 11, our office was vandalized and burglarized. In December, our policy was not

renewed. We tried many times to obtain another insurance policy for our center, but many companies denied our request.

For these reasons, the board decided to change the name. One, in order to help us obtain insurance for our center, and, two, to help the other ethnic refugees to feel welcomed and not intimidated by the name. The Arizona refugees have a dream of a successful resettlement in their new community; the Arizona Refugee Community Center hopes to fulfill those dreams. The board approved the new name of the center to be Arizona Refugee Community Center. The board wants to create a community council in which any refugee from any ethnic group can be a member. Also, the board of directors for the Arizona Refugee Community Center will be made up of people of all ethnic groups.

Sincerely,



Jabir Algarawi  
Executive Director

PROGRAM ASSISTS CHILDREN, ADULTS**FIRRP PROVIDES LEGAL SERVICES**

There are more than 1,900 men, women and children detained on any average day within the Arizona system, and there are approximately 20,000 on any given day throughout the entire country. Individuals are detained while they go through immigration-removal hearings before an immigration judge. Immigration law has been compared to the IRS tax code in its complexity; most individuals going before the judge do not speak English and have varying degrees of education. However, there is no government-appointed counsel to represent them in immigration court.

These numbers and the lack of legal representation are the reasons the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, or the Florence Project for short, was founded in 1989.

"There is no public defender system in immigration proceedings," said Andrea Black, the Project's executive director. "As a result, 90 percent of detained immigrants do not have representation due to poverty. That's why we're here."

Back in 1989, Judge John McCarrick, a judge with the Phoenix Immigration Court, put out a call to local attorneys for assistance with the numerous detained individuals in the Arizona system. There was a tremendous response from the private bar. Lewis & Roca, in fact, allowed Chris Brelje, one of its attorneys, to take a year of paid leave to help start the Florence Asylum Project, as it was initially called, which offered legal services to asylum seekers.

But the staff of the Project soon discovered that other detained individuals, in addition to asylum seekers, had legal needs as well, so the organization changed its name to the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project to better reflect these broadened services.

The Project's clients include asylum seekers who fear persecution, torture and even death if returned to their home countries; long-term permanent residents who face exile from their family members; individuals who came to the United States as refugees, but are now facing deportation for a criminal offense; and even United States citizens who are wrongfully detained. The Project gives rights presentations to all immigrants as they go through the court system.

For individuals who qualify for relief from removal, the Project offers targeted legal services, including

representation, pro se case preparation and referral to pro bono attorneys.

"Our mission is to provide justice and efficiency to as many individuals as possible," Black said.

Last year alone, the Florence Project gave "Know Your Rights" presentations to 9,000 people from more than 80 different countries. The Project gave targeted follow-up services to 2,307 individuals, including one-on-one interviews and legal advice, assistance with applications and documentation, intensive pro se counseling and representation or pro bono referral whenever possible.

"Congress just recently appropriated \$1 million for initial rights presentation programs — one component of the services the Project provides.

"These programs have been shown to reduce significantly behavioral problems, anxiety of the detainees and time spent on the process," said Black. "The U.S. Department of Justice found that legal orientation programs reduce the stays by 4.2 bed days per person, with an average price per bed day of \$65. For the \$1 million investment, the government and, thus, we taxpayers, will be able to save approximately \$7 million."

The administrative procedures for distributing this money are still being worked out, but Black says that the funds will soon be available via a grant process.

Last year, through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Project was able to hire a social worker to assist with its core legal services. This addition allows the Project to integrate social services with legal services, according to Black.

"Brooke Hammond, our new social worker on staff, allows us to work more effectively with our clients," Black said. "She assists our clients in preparing for their court hearings, finds referral services upon release from detention and provides extra assistance for more vulnerable individuals, such as asylum seekers, individuals with mental health problems and long-term detainees."

In 1998, the Project expanded its services from Florence to the detention center in Eloy, Ariz. There, the Project developed an innovative pro se model of legal-service delivery to provide services to the large number of individuals detained in Eloy — 1,000 on any given day. The Eloy model was recently awarded the Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation.

*"There is no public  
defender system in  
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proceedings. As a  
result, 90 percent of  
detained immigrants  
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representation due to  
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we're here."*



After interning with the Project in 1995, Black returned in 1996 to help get the Eloy program started.

"I wanted hands-on work in immigration law for my summer internship," Black said. "I came out here and decided this was exactly what I wanted to do. I was very lucky to be able to return through a fellowship from the National Association of Public Interest Law."

In October 2000, the Project started a program to assist unaccompanied minor immigrants who were detained in the system which has developed it into a model program for other similar projects across the country. The children's center is in Phoenix, founded by Holly Cooper, an attorney for the children's program in Florence. Last year, Cooper and the Florence Project gave rights presentations to 379 children and individual help to 226 children. The organization argued 23 child asylum cases, winning 15, with eight pending. Twenty-three pro bono attorneys helped represent the children. With this record, the Project is able to even out the odds a little bit, since, in the case of a child in INS detention, the INS acts as both the child's guardian and prosecutor.

"The hardest thing about this job is that no one knows that immigration detention exists," Black said. "It's a very hidden world. And the immigration code is much like the tax code: They are both long, detailed, very complex and require an expert to understand them. On top of this, the immigration laws are becoming more and more strict, especially since 1996 after the Oklahoma City bombing and since Sept. 11.

"But interaction with the detained community is so rewarding — for everyone involved: for our clients, for us as the attorneys and for the community as a whole," she continued. "It's just a matter of getting the word out."

The word is getting out for Black and her staff. In addition to the social worker they have recently hired, the Project now has a staff consisting of four attorneys, one just for children's cases; an accredited representative, who has special permission from the court to represent detained individuals; one paralegal; an office manager; and a director of development and outreach.

Also, Bacon & Dear, a Phoenix law firm, has set up a competitive scholarship program at the University of Arizona to provide the Project with four, full-time interns a year. This scholarship has become very prestigious and sought after. Last year, the Project interviewed approximately 45 students for the four positions.

"We have a strong network of attorneys and others willing to help," Black said. "Also, we work very closely with INS and the immigration court. We have found the agencies to be receptive and cooperative. After all, we all have common interests — justice for individuals going through the process and efficiency for the court process — just different roles."

The staff members have developed "know your rights" written materials and videos, which explain the court process and the different forms of relief, and

they go out to communities to give seminars and conduct discussions about the issues, but there is still a lot of educating to do, even in the refugee communities.

"Refugees and those who provide assistance to refugees sometimes mistakenly feel they and their clients are safe from deportation," Black said. "While this is true in most cases, the smallest criminal infraction can be enough to start the deportation process. We need to be able to educate refugees and their agencies before this happens."

Black and her staff are very willing to accept invitations to speak at events, to conduct seminars and to share best practices with other organizations that work with refugees, asylees and other immigrants. After all, the Project's mission is to provide justice and efficiency to as many people as possible.

For more information, please contact Black at (520) 868-0191, ext. 101, or e-mail her at [frfp@primerenet.com](mailto:frfp@primerenet.com). ■



*THE LEGAL EAGLES' NEST — The staff and attorneys for the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, or the Florence Project for short, are: (back row, l-r): Andrea Black, executive director; Holly Cooper, children's attorney; Brooke Hammond, social worker; Ryan McGrath, paralegal; Ariane Glazer, development and outreach director; Francisca Yoder, administrative assistant; Victoria Lopez, Florence staff attorney; (front row, l-r): Suzannah Maday, senior staff attorney with Arlo; Lara Nafziger, Eloy legal representative; and Virginia Carstens, Eloy staff attorney.*

# ARABS CHANGING NAMES

*continued from page 7*

Paterson, N.J., where the community is still smarting from abuse it took after it became known that at least six of the Sept. 11 hijackers lived there.

"You're admitting some kind of guilt, which is not the case. This shows no guts, courage or manhood," Awadallah said.

Soon after the attacks, authorities across the country reported a spate of assaults on Arabs and those who appeared to be from the Middle East. A Yemeni shopkeeper was shot to death in California after receiving racial slurs and a death threat. An Arizona shopkeeper from India met the same fate, prosecutors say, because he wore a turban.

In a Pennsylvania case, attackers poured gasoline on the ground near three Arabic-looking attendants and lit it with a match. In Louisiana, fliers urging boycotts of 44 businesses said to be owned by Muslims led to vandalism.

"It's very sad, but what can you do?" asked Adnan Si Hassen, a 72-year-old Algerian from Hoboken who has applied to change his name to Dan Hassensi. "My name looks Arabic, but I don't look Arabic. I actually look like dark Sicilian, so I want it to sound Italian."

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, 3-year-old Osama Azzouzi is also having a hard time in his New Brunswick preschool, where his classmates taunt him and call him Osama bin Laden. His parents withdrew him from school and filed an application to change his first name to Samir.

And 23-year-old Mohammed Khalil couldn't get a job until he got his first name changed to Michael.

## **'A TERRIBLE SITUATION'**

"It's a terrible situation, but I supported what he was doing," said his father, John Khalil. "People are biased and prejudiced." Michael now works at an auto dealership where few people ask what his surname is.

Many other Arabs are changing their names informally, without going to court. Sandra Nichols, a New York immigration lawyer, said many of her clients, already fearful of being detained in the government's post-Sept. 11 dragnet, are appropriating new names for themselves.

"Some of them call me using American names, and I go, 'Huh?'" she said. "Achmed is now Al, Ibrahim is now Abe, Jamaal is now Jimmy, Mohammed

is now Mike or Moe." ■

*"It's very sad, but*

*what can you do?"*

*asked Adnan Si*

*Hassen, a 72-year-old*

*Algerian from*

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## MOSIAC ELDER CENTER

*continued from page 1*

one of the center's clients, shared her paintings with the elder refugees. The day's activities began with the elder refugees introducing themselves with two or three details about their lives. Everyone tried English, and most succeeded!

In addition to the socializing, the center offers English as a Second Language and citizenship classes, information on benefits available and how to get them, immigration issues and transportation and coordination with local health-care providers.

In addition to Bogdanovic and Moroz, the center has three case managers who work with the various refugee groups that utilize the services: Trinh Vu is the Vietnamese case manager, Sanja Tetaric is the Bosnian case manager and Ikhlas Ibrahim is the African/Arabic case manager.

"We try to offer outreach and companionship to our elderly refugee clients," Bogdanovic said. "It's wonderful to be able to provide a place where our older refugees can get together to share, talk and learn. I love to see them so happy together." ■



*COORDINATORS EXTRAORDINAIRE – Lejla Bogdanovic (left), the refugee program coordinator for the Maricopa Elder Refugee Program; Trinh Vu, the Vietnamese case manager; and Sophia Moroz, the site's coordinator and Russian case manager, take a short break from the opening-day ceremonies at the Mosaic Elder Refugee Center. Not pictured are Sanja Tetaric, the Bosnian case manager, and Ikhlas Ibrahim, the African/Arabic case manager.*

# CHANGES IN 'INDEFINITE DETAINEES' POLICY

*continued from page 4*

benefits. This complicated determination, which will differ depending on the individual's original status<sup>3</sup>, cannot be made easily by eligibility workers through their normal procedures. Second, these individuals most likely will not have documentation of their original status. Also, the INS Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system will not be able to provide the needed eligibility information, such as status or entry date, through primary verification. Secondary verification may be able to provide some of the needed information, but most likely it will not have all of the needed information, and the information will not arrive in a timely manner. Finally, agencies should note that many of these individuals will no longer be eligible for benefits, because their eligibility periods may have expired during their incarceration. ORR has developed this State Letter to assist agencies with these difficult determinations.

## PROCESS FOR DETERMINING STATUS

ORR recognizes that the above-mentioned information is complicated and, as noted in the previous section, agencies may be unable to make eligibility determinations, because of a lack of documentation and information in the SAVE system. Therefore, ORR has developed a process with the INS so that benefit-granting agencies, instead of conducting a SAVE query or basing an eligibility determination solely on documentation, may send information about the applicant to ORR. ORR then will work with the INS to determine the applicant's original status, entry date and eligibility and will relay this information to the benefit-granting agency.

Agencies should use the following process **ONLY** for determining the status of individuals who have received a final order of removal but who have been released from detention, because they cannot be removed to their home countries or to any other country. Individuals whose eligibility determination should be done through this process may present the eligibility worker with an Order of Supervision, which is INS Form I-220B. The Order of Supervision should include the individual's alien registration number and a notation concerning exclusion, deportation or removal. These individuals also may have an employment authorization document (most likely the INS Form I-688B) showing §274a.12(c)(18) as the provision of law.

Agencies should follow these steps for determining eligibility for these applicants:

1. Gather as much of the following information as possible from the applicants:
  - Name.
  - Alien registration number ("A number").

- Date of birth.
- Social Security number.
- Home country.
- Number on the I-94 card.
- Parents' names.
- Driver's license number.
- Copies of any immigration documents.

2. Call or e-mail AnnaMarie Bena at (202) 260-5186 or abena@acf.dhhs.gov; or Pamela Green-Smith at (202) 401-4531 or pgreensmith@acf.dhhs.gov to inform them about the need for an eligibility determination for an indefinite detainee.

3. Send a fax with the information that was collected from the applicant to AnnaMarie Bena or Pamela Green-Smith at (202) 401-0981 or (202) 401-5487. Include contact information for the individual who is handling the case at the benefit-granting agency.

After this information has been submitted to the INS, ORR may contact the benefit-granting agency for additional information. ORR will notify agencies of status, entry date and eligibility by a fax, which should be kept in the applicant's file.

## PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT UNDER THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Notes:

1 533 U.S. 678 (2001).

2 Individuals with the following statuses are eligible for ORR-funded benefits (see 45 CFR §400.43 and ORR State Letters 00-17 and 01-13: (1) refugees under §207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA); (2) asylees whose status was granted under §208 of the INA; (3) Cuban and Haitian entrants, in accordance with the requirements in 45 CFR part 401; (4) certain Amerasians from Vietnam; and (5) victims of severe forms of trafficking.

3 Information about termination of status for the various ORR-eligible populations may be found throughout the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). For information about refugees, please see INA §207(c)(4) and 8 CFR §207.9. For information about asylees, please see INA §208(c)(2) and 8 CFR §208.24. For information about Cuban and Haitian entrants, please see the Refugee Education Assistance Act and ORR State Letter 01-22. Amerasians enter the United States as lawful permanent residents, and information about their statuses may be found at 8 CFR §1.1(p). Victims of severe forms of trafficking are not eligible for benefits based on their immigration status but on their certification or recognition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Information about certification of adult trafficking victims and recognition of minor trafficking victims for benefits purposes can be found in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and in ORR State Letter 01-13.

# SHIPMAN NAMED STATE COORDINATOR

The Department of Economic Security has announced the appointment of Charles Shipman as the new state coordinator for the Refugee Resettlement Program.

Prior to joining the Arizona program, Shipman was the State Refugee Coordinator for the state of Vermont, and most recently, director for The Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. Since 1993 he has been responsible for the overall management and administration of the programs.

During his tenure, he was able to raise more than \$11 million in agency revenues; expand the program by 800 percent; and grow its services to include assistance for nonrefugee, foreign-born individuals.

Shipman's goals for the Arizona program are no less lofty.

"My overarching goal for Arizona's program is to achieve the outcome that all refugees and other individuals eligible for services under the Refugee Act of 1980, and all subsequent acts, are served in a manner that best helps them to be soundly established on a path to future independent achievement and personal and family progress," he

said. "A few of my priority objectives will be to identify what current initiatives are serving refugees well, what services and resources refugees would benefit from if there was change and whether refugees are able to access services as required by law. Using the State of Arizona State Plan for the Refugee Resettlement Program as my handbook, I will work to ascertain what resources and service paradigms need to be sustained or put into place to best serve refugees in Arizona."

Shipman earned his bachelor's degree in political science and pre-law from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. He also attended the University of Vermont where he studied Russian.

Shipman has also completed course work in several topics, including integrating mental health services into programs, immigration law, management skills and interpreting in legal settings.

As of this writing, Shipman, his wife and their four daughters are busy moving from Vermont to Arizona. "Working with refugees is a passion for me," Shipman said. "[This position] just seemed to have everything that I was looking for."

Welcome to Charles and his family! We look forward to working with you. ■



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